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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/432,855	11/02/1999	DESMOND E. WONG	0100.9901360	1672

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VEDDER PRICE KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ
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CHICAGO, IL 60601

EXAMINER

MENGISTU, AMARE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/432,855

Applicant(s)

WONG, DESMOND E.

Examiner

Amare Mengistu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 14-23 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected elected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 8.
2. This application contains claims drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 8. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.
3. Applicant's election with traverse of group I in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the groups cannot be combination and sub-combinations. This is not found persuasive because where a combination as claimed does not set forth the details of the subcombination as separately claimed and the subcombination has separate utility, the inventions are distinct and restriction is proper if reasons exist for insisting upon the restriction; i.e., separate classification, status, or field of search (see, MPEP 806.05 © I).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the ***“a first node of a connector”***; ***“the connector for coupling to a flat panel display”***; ***“a flat panel display controller”***; ***“internal timer”***; ***“a clock counter”***, and ***“a flat panel display***

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being coupled/decoupled to/from the connector” must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 4, lines 15-16 “***detect module 221***” should be “***detect module 220***”.

Appropriate correction is required.

6. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

In claim 1, line 1 the recitation of the claim “***detecting a monitor***”;

Line 2, “***monitoring a first node of a connector***,” “***the connector for coupling to a flat panel display***”

Lines 4-5, “***asserting a first output signal to indicate the first node is a first state; and receiving the first output signal at a flat panel display controller***”;

In claim 6, the phrase "**wherein the step of determining includes. ...When the input is stable for a predetermined amount of time**";

In claim 7, "**wherein the predetermined amount of time is based upon an internal timer**";

In claim 9, "**wherein the register value is indicative of a clock count**";

In claims 11 and 12, "**a flat panel display being coupled/decoupled to/from the connector**"

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claims 5,610 and 13 recite the limitation "**further comprising the step of**" and "**the step of determining**"; "**the first input**" in lines 1 and 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

5. Claims 1,5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The recitation of the claim 1, lines 4 "**asserting a first output signal to indicate the first node is in a first state**" is not clear. Where does the first output signal is generated from? It is not clear as to where and how the first output signal is generated?

The recitation of claims 5 and 6 "**determining if the first input**" is unclear. What first input? The claim is not clear as to what first input is. Is the applicant referring the first input as a signal or a device?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-3,5-7,10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Verdun et al** (6,493,782).

As to claims 1-3,5-7,10-13 **Verdun et al** (hereinafter **Verdun**) clearly teaches monitoring the first node of a connector (fig.3 (230)), the connector for coupling to a flat panel display (fig.1 (42,45)); asserting a first output signal to indicate the first node is in a first state (fig.3 (240,310); and receiving the first output signal at a flat panel display controller. Furthermore, **Verdun** discloses the first output signal is an interrupt signal (fig.3 (240), 4 (360,370)) and it is for general purpose of a computer (see, abstract); determining if the first input is in a stable state before the step of asserting for a predetermined time (fig.3 (250,260, COL.2, lines 49-54); operating in a normal mode prior to monitoring (fig.3 (210)). it is inherent for **Verdun** display to have a display panel controller to receive an output signal and to drive the flat panel display.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 4,8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Verdun et al** (6,493,782).

As to claims 4,8 and 9, **Verdun** discloses a first signal output and first input signal for a predetermined amount of time (fig.3 (240,250), fig.4 (360,370); col.2, lines 49-54), but has failed to disclose the first output signal and the predetermined amount of time are stored in a register. However; it would have been obvious to one skill in the art to recognized that the first output signal and the first output signal predetermined period or time of **Verdun** must be stored in some kind of memory or storage In order run the program (figs.3 and 4).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amare Mengistu whose telephone number is (703) 305-4880. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, T-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on (703) 305-4938. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amare Mengistu", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amare Mengistu
Primary Examiner
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A.M
July 25, 2003